

## HSAC Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023 — 4PM

Location: 254 County House Road, Clarksboro NJ 08020

Present:

**Voting Members:** Kim Gober, Jennifer Rodriguez, Luanne Hughes, Lisa Conley, Gina Ridge, Natalie Fortunato, Ingres Simpson, Elmoria Thomas, Jennifer Plews, Jim Sinclair

**Non-Voting Members and Guests:** Lisa Cerny, Michelle Pandolfo, Bethany Vega, Dawn Carruolo, Elizabeth Bermudez, Kyleigh Stevenson

Kim Gober calls meeting to order

Introductions

Reading of the Public Meeting Statement Act

Kim Gober asks for a motion to approve June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Jim Sinclair motions, Natalie Fortunato seconds, Lisa Conley abstains and minutes are approved.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to open the floor for public comment Gina Ridge motions, Jennifer Rodriguez seconds and floor is open for public comment.

**Presentation from Adam Bricketto Community Program Manager from Food Bank of South Jersey**

- Food Bank of South Jersey are located in Gloucester, Burlington, Salem, and Camden County.
- Mission statement is to provide immediate solution to food insecurity in the South Jersey area which has recently expanded offerings, with additions such as providing nutrition education and sustainability.
- SJ Food Bank is not a direct distribution to clients but act as a distribution center where they distribute to agencies who will then distribute it directly to clients.

### **- Offered programs –**

- Feed More, Summer Meals Program, Hope Mobile which is a mobile distribution, Feel Good With Food, Pop up Pantries, Health and Wellness covers nutrition education, Supplemental Nutrition Resources for Seniors, SNAP outreach program, weekend meal pack, afterschool snack pack, and the school pantry.
- [www.Foodbanksj.org](http://www.Foodbanksj.org) to find food, schedule nutrition classes / trainings, SNAP Outreach.
- Specific Programming health and wellness staff has 6 educators and a manager, they teach a variety of programs ranging from 6 weeks to a year in length, or a onetime program. Some programs include nutrition lessons, nutrition activities, and hands on cooking. Some are more on the side of life coaching which goes more in depth in helping participants make healthy lifestyle changes with diet and activity levels. Food and finance teaches how to buy healthy food on a budget, provide different lessons for school assemblys with hands on activities. A healthy pantry initiative has 5 educators who work with food pantries in the area and show the people receiving the food how to healthily prepare it. Also helps with the transition to a choice pantry.

Program provides cooking demos that teach people how to cook the food along with nutrition lessons.

- Food equity team works with the feel good with food program, that program brings a produce section to people's homes where they can choose what they want. Seeing a good response in this current program look forward to expanding.
- Servsafe training which SJ Foodbank provides there are 4-5 trainings currently planned.
- Provide CPR, AED training and basic first aid training to organizations reach out to Adam if anyone is interested in taking those trainings.
- Program created by thinktank.org called cost of poverty experience C.O.P.E which is a simulation for agencies to come in and experience what it is like to live below the poverty line.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to close the floor for public comment Jim Sinclair motions, and Jennifer Rodriguez seconds and floor is closed of public comment.

### **Roundtable**

#### **CEAS – Kim Gober**

- CEAS met September 12<sup>th</sup>, a point of discussion covered was the proper protocol if someone is requesting letters of support from CEAS committee and SNJCoC , a memo from SNJCoC was circulated giving direction to the agencies concerning that.
- Submitted application for SNJCoC to HUD for continuum of care and that application is posted on Gloucester County website.

#### **Allocations – Elmoría Thomas**

- No meeting since last HSAC meeting.
- Social Service for Homeless Grant is coming out soon.

#### **MART – Michelle Pandolfo**

- Monitoring for 2023 has been completed.
- Summary of monitoring activity was handed out and was also shared via email a week ago.

The MART subcommittee makes a motion to accept the monitoring activity reports and Elmoría Thomas seconds. Jennifer Plews, Gina Ridge, Lisa Conley abstain from reports related to their agencies, and full report is accepted.

### **No Appeals**

#### **Nominating**

- Meeting before the October HSAC meeting and will have a report next month.

#### **COMA – Michelle Pandolfo**

- Met earlier this month and spent time discussing mission statement and developing a plan for COMA and how it is moving forward.

## **American Job Center**

- Reentry Job Fair was September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Mega Job Fair will be Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>

## **Childcare – Elmorina Thomas**

- NIEER National Institute for Early Education Research will be sending their draft proposal for the Pre-K expansion plan that is based on the findings of their focus groups and they will send that draft to the original stakeholders who attended those focus groups within the next couple of weeks for final comment.
- NJ apprentice pilot project happening at Rowan there are five state departments participating in that, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Labor, and the Department of Children and Families, and Rowan is looking for input from the Early Childhood Community to help with design.

## **DHS Staff Persons Report – Michelle Pandolfo**

- Social Services for Homeless Grant renewal is anticipated to come in by the end of next week.
- Subcontracts and providers under that grant can expect RFP to go out with option for a one-year extension, for two rounds.
- Toys for Tots families can apply during the month of October, organizations can apply after November 1.

## **State Representatives Reports**

### **DCP&P Gloucester - Dawn Carruolo**

- Currently have 337 families who are involved with investigations, 142 in home cases, 105 placement cases.
- Cases are Increasing
- Still hiring staff

## **Public Comment**

- Gina Ridge CFFS 5k Run/walk still open for registration starting tomorrow at Chestnut Branch Park for Domestic Violence Awareness Month along with fundraising for Human Trafficking program and trauma and loss program for substance use as well.
- SouthWest Council partnered with CFFS and on September 28<sup>th</sup>, will start the Strengthening Families Program from 5pm-7pm, still a few openings for the program.
- SWC Planning to have a youth town hall to inform youth and parents on the legalities of marijuana and the updated laws on October 27<sup>th</sup>, flyer to be distributed.
- Kim Gober - Housing Authority of Gloucester County has its voucher program wait list open for any veteran or spouse of a deceased veteran. Mainstream vouchers are also open, which are vouchers for families with a disabled family member that does not have to be the head or spouse but it is required to have a referral from an agency that the family was either homeless or at risk of homelessness or premature institutionalization and they are both considered local

preferences. Veterans will stay open and the mainstream will close when it has a sufficient amount of applicants.

- Camp Salute is a facility in Clayton New Jersey which has a preference for veterans and there are also some openings there along with some project based vouchers
- Also received an additional award of Vash Units but they have to come from the VA.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting Gina Ridge motions, Jennifer Plews seconds and meeting is adjourned.

**Next meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup> at Budd Blvd 4pm**